

**MINUTES OF HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL, May 17, 2011
GENERALIZED SUMMARY**

President Belden called to order a special Work Session of the Hamilton County Council at 8:33:00 a.m. Those in attendance were Councilors Jim Belden, Meredith Carter, Paul Ayers, Steve Schwartz, Rick McKinney, Judy Levine, Brad Beaver; Dan Stevens, Director of Administration; John South and Rodney Rulon, Soil and Water; Auditor Dawn Coverdale and Chief Deputy Auditor Robin M. Mills.

President Belden had the following recommended agenda:

- Projected deficit for 2012: \$5,172,372
- Move Social Security to Rainy Day Fund: 2,325,195
- Balance to cut: 2,847,177
- Is there a consensus to use the worksheet of cuts per department based on percentage of deficit?
- Any specific budget reduction recommendations from Council members?
- Establish time frame for budget submission.
- Discuss process for budget review and approval.

The Council listed several ideas for reducing expenditures. Each Councilor was given the opportunity to list their suggestions. The 18 ideas are listed below. Once the list was created the Council voted on each item. The highlighted items received at least four votes of support. The rest of the items were voted down and taken off the list.

Councilor Schwartz moved to go through the list and then figure a percentage of cuts for all departments. Councilor Beaver seconded the motion. Roll call McKinney-no; Levine-yes; Carter-no; Beaver-yes; Schwartz-yes; Ayers-no and Belden-yes. Motion carried 4-3.

- Councilor Schwartz moved to eliminate all stipends: this includes the stipends paid to judges, prosecutor, plan commission members, merit board members, and anyone else who serves on a board and receives a per meeting attended stipend for that service. (\$50,000) Councilor Beaver seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-2. Councilor McKinney and Belden against.
- Councilor Beaver moved to eliminate the receptionist position in the front lobby of the Judicial Center. (\$31,725) Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-3. Councilor Carter, McKinney and Belden against.
- Councilor McKinney moved to reduce the security at the Judicial Center. (\$250,000) Councilor Ayers seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-3. Councilor Carter, Belden and Schwartz against.
- Councilor Beaver reduce the vehicle pool. (\$250,000) Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion failed 1-5-1. Councilor Levine was for and Councilor Ayers abstained.
- Councilor Beaver moved to combine Soil and Water with the Surveyor's Office. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion failed
- Councilor Schwartz moved to eliminate the Safety Risk Manager's position. Motion failed for lack of second.
- Reduce the Coroner's office budget. No motion or second.
- Reduce expenditures in the Human Resource budget (legal notices) and the Janus expenditures in the Commissioners' budget. No motion or second.
- Councilor Levine moved to revise the work week by reducing the hours per week by 5. This would take a 37.5 hour week to 32.5 hour week and 40 hour week to 35 hour week. Councilor Beaver seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-3-1.
- Councilor Ayers moved to eliminate the Animal Control Officer position. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-4.
- Councilor Beaver moved to reorganize and reduce the JSC operations by \$200,000. Councilor Ayers seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-2. Councilor McKinney and Belden against.
- Councilor McKinney moved to reduce court administration pauper attorney budget by \$200,000. Councilor Ayers seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-2. Councilor Beaver and Belden against.
- Eliminate the Out of School Suspension Program funding from the Prosecutor's budget. No motion or second.
- Councilor McKinney moved to eliminate one position from each court. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion failed 1-5. Councilor Ayers, Beaver, Belden, Carter, Levine and Schwartz.
- Councilor Beaver moved to eliminate the Building Inspector position from the Planning Department budget. (\$51,195) Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-2. Councilor McKinney and Belden against.

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- Councilor Beaver moved to reduce the Surveyor's budget by two positions. (\$100,000) Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-2-1.
- Councilor Levine moved to eliminate the Court Administrator Court Commissioner position. Councilor Beaver seconded the motion. Motion failed 1-5-1.
- Councilor Ayers moved to eliminate funding for EMS. (\$432,000) Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Beaver moved to not reduce the PTBOA Board stipend. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

The Council will meet again on Monday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. to review these items and the updated budget numbers from the Auditor based on the dollars associated with the highlighted items above. The Council will also discuss what percentage of the remaining deficit will be assigned to each department to further reduce their 2012 budget proposals.

The Council will also meet in a Work Session on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Chief Deputy Auditor requested the Council set the Non-Binding Hearing date in September. The date is set for September 15, 2011.

Chief Deputy Auditor asked if the Council wishes to have the companies who are filing their CF1 Real Estate and Personal Property forms at the June 1st meeting need to be present. The Council affirmed that they want the companies in attendance.

These actions will not be finalized until the Council meeting on June 1, at which time the Council will issue budget instructions to all Department Heads.

The total dollar amount assigned to the eight highlighted items is \$1,314,920. If we subtract this amount from the target of \$2,847,177, it leaves a balance of \$1,532,257, remaining in cuts to come from the 2012 proposed budgets.

Any of the actions listed so far can be adjusted by the Council at any time prior to publishing of the 2012 budget by the Auditor in August. Therefore, this information should not be considered as final until the Council makes an official vote.

President

Auditor